

DOCKET NO.: ULD-0004
Application No.: 10/782,475
Office Action Dated: April 8, 2005

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 and 2. The sheet, which includes Figures 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS

Claims 9, 10, and 12-20 are pending. Claims 9, 13, 14, 19, and 20 have been amended, claims 10 and 15 have been canceled, and new claim 21 has been added in this reply. Claims 9, 12-14, and 16-21 therefore will be pending upon entry of the above amendments.

The drawings have been objected to as containing informal lettering. Corrected drawings with formalized lettering are submitted herewith.

The specification has been amended as requested by the Examiner to include updated information concerning U.S. applications that have matured into patents.

Claims 9-13 have been rejected in the office action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 246,858 (Aitchison). Claims 9-13, 16, 19, and 20 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 667,994 (Klay). Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Aitchison or Klay. Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Aitchison or Klay in view of U.S. patent no. 3,971,406 (Inada).

Applicants respectfully note that claim 11 was canceled in the amendment of November 22, 2004, thus rendering the above rejections moot with respect to that claim.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement in the office action that claims 15 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 9, the base claim of claim 15, has been amended herein to include all of the limitations of claim 15 and intervening claim 10. Claims 10 and 15 have been canceled. New claim 21 includes all of the limitations of claim 17, and claim 19 (the base claim of claim 17). Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the above amendments do not introduce any new issues, and do not require further consideration or searching by the Examiner. Entry of these amendments, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 (and claims 12-14 and 16-20, which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) or 103(a) are respectfully requested.

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A notice of allowability respectfully requested.

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